Standards: Enabler of Sustainability

An Academic-Industry Workshop

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ANSI’s Role in Standardization

- ANSI is a federation with over 1,000 members: government agencies, trade associations, standards developing organizations, professional societies, companies, academic and international bodies, and consumer organizations.

- As the voice of the U.S. standards and conformity assessment system, ANSI empowers its members and constituents to strengthen the U.S. marketplace position in the global economy while helping to assure the safety and health of consumers and the protection of the environment.

- ANSI does not develop standards, but rather accredits the procedures of standards developing organizations and subsequently approves individual documents as American National Standards (ANS).
The U.S. Standardization System

- Market-driven and private sector-led
- A decentralized, demand-driven system in which standards are developed in response to specific concerns and needs
- A voluntary system in which standards development is predicated on a set of core principles
- Both standards development and implementation are driven by stakeholder needs
- Industry, government and consumers are all stakeholders
Our Standardization Infrastructure

- Firmly rooted in U.S. history and experience
- Premised on the belief that standards can play an important role in enabling technological innovation
  - defining and establishing common platforms for product differentiation
  - enabling interoperability
  - facilitating competition
- Thousands of individuals, companies, labor, consumer and industrial organizations, and government agencies at all levels voluntarily contribute their knowledge, talents and efforts to standards-setting activities
Standards Developing Organizations

- Scientific and professional societies
- Trade associations
- Organizations with standardization as a primary focus
- Consortia and for a
Government’s Role

- The U.S. federal government is the largest single creator and user of specifications and standards
  - Agencies engage in standardization in a wide range of mission-specific roles
- Decisions about which standards are most appropriate for specific needs are left to the discretion of individual agencies
  - In support of regulation, procurement and policy activities
- Established mechanisms exist for coordination of standards policy
Government’s Role, cont.

- User
- Specifier
- Participant, facilitator, advocate
- Technical advisor/leader
- Convener
- Funding source

**Purpose:** to assure that key public policy goals are achieved in a timely and effective manner
ANSI as Bridge to Executive and Legislative Branch Policy Makers

- Serves critical information-sharing and policy roles
- Advocates greater use of voluntary consensus standards and conformance programs by government agencies and broader participation by agency personnel in standards development
- Works with ANSI members to create standardization-related outreach programs to legislators and to increase understanding of the private-sector standards community among agencies involved in trade and commerce issues
- Fosters understanding among opinion leaders of the major role standards and conformance play in the international and domestic marketplace
ANSI’s Reputation with Policy Makers

- Take on issues requiring involvement from all members of the ANSI Federation (SDO’s, government members, organizations, consumer groups, etc.)
- Provide problem-solving capacity when both private and public sector involvement is necessary to achieve resolution
- Offer neutral, expert facilitation to resolve issues that require consensus-drive solutions
- Assert ANSI’s unique role as the neutral convener of meetings where consensus, practicable solutions are needed
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